

Present Day Woodens



Some of the most discriminating collectors harbor a distinct preference for dolls made of wood. Nothing synthetic about that substantial earth grown material. There were wooden images of dolls—old as time. Some treasures have not crumbled into dust, but remain, merely as light weight shells of their ancient assurance. Kimport has three such, very old “Joss” or household gods; 812A is a 5-inch Mandarin with touches of gold leaf still gleaming. No. 812B is a Warrior and 812C looks like a crowned magistrate. These are identical height, about 6½ inches including bases that have been recently made. Colors on all are rich—red, blue, green, all muted with age. Price, \$7.50 each.

Of course those three Chinese antiquities had no logical sanctuary under a “Present Day” heading, but the chilly village band, here pictured, is as modern as tomorrow. Chilly? Sure, though

their wooden hats are half dozen assorted, each eager little musician wears a bandanaed (enameled) tied over his ears—could be “the better to not hear you, my dear band-brudder!” Each stands on a bright hued base, the circumference of a quarter. All are meticulously painted from poka-dot mules to the whites of their funny big eyes. Under 3 inches tall, you’ll love the color variance, the perfect workmanship and sheer whimsy of this band, imported from old Germany. You might have the heart to separate them into six separate gifts, but we send them, nicely boxed as No. 609—Toot, Wheeze, Zoom-Zoom, etc., \$3.95 the set.

Woodens from other countries are fairly well represented. One of the best buys is Jan and Micke, 4½ inch jointed maple children

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from Holland. No stands needed as their wooden shoes are flat soled. Buff floss hair, authentic cloth costumes, smartly painted features, No. 300 for Jan Dutch britches and No. 300A for sweet Micke, \$1.95 each.

Coffee wood dolls from Ceylon deserve such a Hollywood adjective as "exotic". Strangely carved so the eyes stand up, with slender Aryan features, these light brown doll folk are dignified and certainly different. Kandy Chieftain, No. 650 and his Lady, No. 650A, are indeed aristocrats. Dressed in materials at hand, fine cottons, silk, tinsel, they are still \$7.50 each.



To my surprise, Noah Webster lists "foreign" as a synonym for "exotic". I would say that our African wood carved dolls are all of foreign! Carved of heavy, native timber, some black, some choco-

late brown, piebald or taffy colored, these Wakambi warriors and women impress you with their stark simplicity. There is a direct charm to this native wood carving, ancient as pre-historic art, stylized as the most modern.

Sitting or Kneeling women may be only 5 or 6 inches high; standing figures vary perhaps from 9 to 14 inches. Of course, no two are identical. Wrapped wire collars, maybe earrings, a shield or spear add interest. The men are No. 107, women, 107A, \$7.50 each.

Pigmyes, well and similarly carved ones are 5 inches tall, No. 107P, \$4.50.



From even farther around the world, come aboriginal type South Sea Islanders. These 8 inch men and women, with both arms and legs poised akimbo, are carved of a beautiful walnut brown wood.

Extremely decorative, they stand firmly, only "clothing" is a deep fringe of skirt knotted around a low placed waist line. Signed "Henri" by artist, on some foot soles. From French Oceana, No. 563 and 563A for man and woman, reduced from \$7.50 each to \$13.00 a pair, or \$6.50 for either one.



Balinese and beautifully carved, impressed and stamped with sharp native tools, are the bell dolls with two bamboo (leg) clappers. Elaborate festive headdress,

typical Indonesian face, strictly conventional bell shaped body with Oriental patterning lavishly carved on both sides. Heights of these Bali made wooden bells vary from about 6 to 9 inches, No. 557C, price, \$4.95.

Wood is a scarce article in the part of Labrador from whence these Eskimoes are imported. But these strange folk, dressed for sub-zero in furs, leather and Grenfell cloth, do have characteristic, wooden heads with high cheek bones, narrow eyes and mouth, ruddy coloring. Made in the Grenfell Mission, 7 or 8 inches tall, No. 252S at \$7.50. These are excellent "attention getters" with a good pedigree page. Larger size, about 10 inches tall, No. 252A, \$10.00.

Best wooden dolls that we have had from South America are undoubtedly those splendidly carved men and women from Ecuador. Collectors of foreign dolls usually favor adult types. Never having been to Ecuador, I shall testify that these dolls look exactly like

color pages from National Geographic. Their complexion, straight Indian features, erect stance, even when carrying a heavy load, are all as typical as are their handsome, loomed cotton garments. Each on a base, perfect collection foreigners, No. 360 and 360A for 7 inch man and woman, \$7.50 each.

Modern, might even say "moderne" is Margitta, lathe turned and dowel limbed cutie from Mexico. Her luxuriant black braids, red, white and green costume identify her as all doll, instead of figurine. Features smartly painted on her polished egg head add to the stylized charm of this Chino Publano Neu. Nine inches tall, No. 352X, \$3.50.

Little Father Serra is a figurine, no cloth garments, no moving joints. The all wood priest is just a convincingly interpreted wooden figure, made a successful California artist who stains the robe brown, the face and hands, sun tan. Features are carved and painted, so is the Bible in his hand, the rosary from his girdle. Height around 6 inches, marked in as No. 53 at \$9.00, we are closing out nine at \$7.50 each.



Two of our favorite State Dolls are wooden, the lumberjack from Washington state and "Woody", the sporting fisherman from Minnesota. The Woodsman is a sturdy character that could stand for a

great industry as well as for his native state. Arms, boots and double headed ax are spruce, while the heads are of warm complexioned juniper. Plaid shirt, heavy trousers, red wool cap. Dani'l stands 9 inches tall, No. 40, \$9.50.



Seven and a half inch "Woody" with rod, reel and burlap bag, is an "egg" head wooden, joined at neck, hips, shoulders and elbows. Cute in khaki and sport shirt. No. 69, \$3.75.

Any and all of the wood dolls are particularly decorative. They group with certain pottery and metal decor as well as with other wooden things. Of course they are effective additions to the doll collections; we wager that if you give the wooden ones a spot, they'll make their way into favorite position.

COSTUME SUGGESTION

Mrs. Mildred Lent wrote that a book called "Period Patterns" by Doris Edson and Lucy Barton (as a supplement to their "Historic Costumes for the Stage") is wonderful for help in dressing dolls. She bought hers from Walter H. Barber Company, Boston. Each book is around \$5.00.

CHANGING STYLES

Unless Doll Talk should be purchased outright by some editor more avid and youthful, its printing schedule and size will probably remain irregular and small. But the quality of text, of your contributions and of our doll offerings—ah, that will remain high enough to compliment you all. The subject matter is limited to dolls, with logical tangent material. Even we, while holding out no promise of reforming, sincerely wish there was more space for including more letters and lectures that are so graciously sent to this desk.

For instance, Mrs. Charles Moesser, Publicity Chairman for the Doll Collectors Guild, sends in copies of speeches made at their monthly club meetings. These papers have taken hours of conscientious research. An excellently concise and informative one by Mrs. Lawrence Kriger is at hand; it is "Fashions and Fabrics from the 12th to 20th Centuries." If any doll maker was making her own set of Changing Fashions, or Historic Portraits, this resume with its wealth of picturesque detail would be of immediate value. As to helping in the proper costuming of antiques, that part is chronologically in the last few paragraphs, because few of us have dolls that predate the 19th or 18th century.

From 1830 Godey's Ladies Book recorded fashion fads, gave Mrs. Krigers much background color on a few outstanding styles:

(1) Plaid material became high style when Prince Albert erected Balmoral Castle in Scotland.

(2) In the mid 19th century, fashion took new trends because Princess Eugenie of Spain had married Napoleon III. She intro-

duced the fascinator, the small tricorne hat with plumes and wore a great deal of black lace, often worn over white silk to show the lovely patterns. Curling irons were used for the first time, on her front hair.

(3) In 1853 the first hat pin was introduced. Bright colored petticoats were worn, knitted lisle hosiery; changeable taffeta and watered or moire silk was on the market. During this period the bloomer girl came into being, with bloomer outfits, later used for sports wear.

(4) During the "gilded age", 1880 to 1890, such blonde actresses as Lillie Langtry and Lillian Russell set flamboyant styles, even to marcelling and bleaching hair.

(5) Hats were trimmed with stuffed birds until the Audubon Society succeeded in halting the slaughter. In 1903, the Merry Widow hat, from the play of that name, was the rage. In 1906 Nestle invented the permanent wave.

(6) 1910-15, Long tunics, tight skirts, hobble skirts, pegtop skirts, split almost to knee, and skirts 8 inches from floor became popular. In 1911, rayon was commercially manufactured. In 1916, America began designing clothes and fabrics. World War One cut America's dye supply. It was a number of years before our dyes were perfected. With the War came uniforms for women in various branches of service and the wrist watch came into being. With the signing of the Armistice in November 1918, short dresses to knee were introduced, low waistlines, corsets were more or less discarded. A boyish, flat figure became the vogue and Irene Castle, famous dancer, introduced bobbed hair."

From these half dozen paragraphs you may glean just the ideas needed to costume some early, mid or late Victorian doll or a post-Victorian darling; 'guess that ought to sketchily cover a hundred years and more!

HERE'S TO FREDDIE!

Doll friend, Mrs. Henry A. Diamant, has disposed of some of her hobby accumulations, dolls, stamps and Valentines. She does have a legitimate excuse, being past seventy-seven, and with eyesight not so good. "I subscribe to dozens of magazines, which never get read, but Doll Talk is so little and so fascinating that I still can go through it. I do feel, Mrs. McKim, that you have done much for the Doll Hobby and for pleasantly educating us collectors."

Little Mrs. Damant usually encloses a few pictures in her letters, and they are charming. This time there was one of a luscious little beauty, posed with a cigarette and a boy cap above her mass of "bang" curls. It was "Freddie Huke", playing the messenger boy in "The Fire Patrol Co.", Chicago, 1893. And yes, this provocative young actress was Freda Diamant, the last living one of Sweet Caporal Cigarette Girls!

I laughed aloud, in an admiring salute to Freddie, at the close of her letter:—"I am all jittery, for I have a friend here waiting for me to finish this letter and go out and have a steak dinner. I only weigh 99 pounds, but I am so energetic that I need plenty of rest and good food."

What a gall! And what fun we have here at Kimport, meeting so many of you wonderful people by way of the written page.



Last number of Doll Talk became so full of this 'n' that, some of which were really late arrivals—but anyway this department as such, was crowded out entirely. It's sort of comforting to be able to order with the assurance of full, fresh stock on a number, but Kimport could not continue in business unless you all knew that year in and year out, hundreds and hundreds of dolls were always here for you. The enclosure with this Doll Talk re-explains that Kimport Dolls are no fly-by-night opportunities, but as dependable stock as we can possibly make them.

For some small, pleasing newcomers, consider Berta from Buckeburg, the gossipy looking Caribbean gals (they do have big mouths) and gaudily dressed Hindu tots—all of these under five inches tall. Little dollies are assured front row position on the doll shelves.



Flesh tinted jointed at hips and shoulders, is Berta, in the costume long worn by her peasant ancestors. This is the dress, particularly the headdress, of the Buckeburg, ancient capitol of the tiny German State Schaumburg-Lippe, about thirty miles southwest of Hanover. Those rib-

bons? Not exaggerated! In real life the girls sometimes drape streamers over an arm to keep them from trailing the dust. Her cherry red skirt is braid trimmed, posey print blouse is lace frilled, and there's a pert muffin of a cap supporting that bow. No. 610, 85c.



Not all of you collectors demand pretty faced dolls—thank goodness! We are not convinced though that these raw rubber girls from Jamaica are even good characters! But they are jolly looking, funny featured, young women with oversize bosoms under tropical print clothes. Many carry fish, fruits or vegetables balanced on their heads. Just under 4 inches in height, and definitely attractive in a comical sort of way. No 261, \$1.15, post-paid.

Smallest of India dolls we have ever had are fresh new children from a Refugee Welfare Center in Bharatpur. Brown cloth, with big dark eyes and other features well painted, they are only 4 and 5 inches tall. Colors are stark yellow, magenta, blue-purple, bright green and there are tinkle bells

and tinsel braid for lavish trim. No. 653C for him and 653D for her, only \$1.25 each, so you really should order a pair.



Correct size for their parents are elaborately decked bride and groom, he in turban and enveloping robe, she in swirling, ornamented skirt, sheer silken veil and a bushel of bangles—even one in her nose. No. 653 and 653A for man and woman, 8½ inches tall, \$3.95 each.

Or a lone mamma could be the same basic, brown cloth doll in brilliantly toned cottons, much jewelry including a silver bead in her nose, No. 653B, \$2.50.

From staunch little Belgium come Albert and Li'beth, bearing tags with cherubim and rampant lions on the shield "Courtrai Belgium." These wide-eyed children are certainly more cherubic than rampant! They are fisher folk, perhaps of Walloon ancestry, speak-



ing French, while other Belgians with whom they have lived at peace for centuries are Flemings with their own Teutonic speech. Our third appealing Belgian, not sketched, might be such a one. She is a brown haired lass from Bruges, reminding us, with yards of snowy edging on her net cap, shawl and apron, of the famed lace industry there. These are 9 inch dolls, excellent collection size, with dainty pressed felt faces. All their "wooden" shoes are painted red. No. 302 for the fisher lad, No. 302A for his matching district girl, and No. 302B for Brigitte of Bruges. Price, \$3.95 each.

There is a new shipment in from Liberty of London—still marked "Made for export trade only". Included are, John and Matilda, slender adult Welsh folk in olden time dress with "witch" hats. He, No. 260, 10½ inches tall; she No. 260A, 9½ inches tall, at \$8.95 and \$9.95 each.

There were only half dozen Shakespeares, that is, six versions of the One and Only Bard of Avon. The rich hues of his Tudor dress varies from doll to doll. Ten inches tall, No. 253, at \$9.95, he is a most discriminating choice.

The major part of our Liberty order was that old favorite Tower Guard or Beef-eater. He's everything an English doll should be, oozing tradition from the puffed crown of that silly hat to the pompous rosettes on his toes! We love him! No. 259, 10 inches tall, but three more to the top of silver-tin halberd. Price, \$7.50.



What a lot of foreigners — but here's several generation old American to close this group. He's Uncle Ned — remember the old ballad—"and his name was Uncle Ned, an' he lived down South long ago"? Made by Helen Layton Fender, only daughter of Zella Layton, who created "Peachie" "Tidewater Tess"

and "Lucy Limpet." The ingenious trick about the bent old darkie is his "haid", a Missouri black walnut, lathe polished, until almost all the rough black gives way to a polish brown patina that you would never have suspected being there. Eight inches tall, but "stoop-ed", neat as a pin, and really appealing. No. 49, \$2.50.

FROM NIPPON

Mrs. R. F. Thomas and her husband have been in Japan for many months, although her last few letters have mentioned such worries as: "I miss my husband so much. He always enjoyed helping me look for and at old dolls. He says he hasn't found any in Korea, although he has looked." On Mrs. Thomas' letter paper there is a Japanesque block print in four colors of a popular play dollie, "Kokeshi Ningyo." This is a girl, or boy, doll head on a handle, no arms or legs, but a practical toy for little ones to clutch.

Added information on Hakata dolls has been garnered by her intelligent study and collecting of Japanese dolls. It seems that the Kansei Era 1789-1800 was most notable for the making of exquisite ceremonial dolls.

In less than four months, Eloise Thomas' dolls have had four showings, with lectures, questions, interviews, etc. Oh, she is a Gray Lady also, one with deep sympathy for the tragic situation, but especially as it touches the individual cases that are contacted.

Here's her report on an exhibit that drew over five thousand paid admissions the first day and more than three thousand the second day! Then it jumped to ten thousand and was held over two more weeks!

"Have just returned from Kyoto where I put my western collection and fifteen of my larger Japanese dolls in the huge World Doll Show, sponsored by the Kyoto Press. One of the men told his editor of my really fine antiques, so the Press arranged to send a special caretaker to move my dolls, Prince Takamatsu's collection and the finest ones of the Imperial Museum.

The annual convention of United Federation of Doll Clubs will be in Detroit, August 17th-19th.

They agreed that I was to pack and personally arrange them in the show. Mr. Nishizawa, my interpreter, is an artist, writer and foremost authority on old dolls. He and I have been guests of the Kyoto Press for the past week. We were put up at the best hotels and wine and dined and worked to death—you know the usual deal, doll judging contests, speeches, etc. The two younger Imperial princesses came to the show, mainly to see my western dolls—an unheard of thing! A representative of his Imperial Majesty had come the week before and made his report. In the old days the dolls would have to be commanded at the palace, lock, stock and barrel. But now, they are trying so hard to act democratic!

Truly wonderful old dolls are displayed, many from shrines and temples that have never been "out" since they were presented to them. In several cases, they were forced to take not only the specimen desired, but also the doll's doll maid, so that she would not be lonely. They were also concerned about the health and happiness of the dolls being taken from the temple and put into a show such as this!"

FAVORITE FAVORS

Mabel Kraft makes doll favors for her club luncheons when she is hostess. One time it was lead pencils with front'n'back heads slipped over the eraser, then long skirts of rainbow hued crepe paper for equilibrium. Last time she used pressed paper spoons prettily painted, bonneted and similarly clad to stand by each goblet. And of course the visiting ladies like something to take home. Can't all win the kitty.

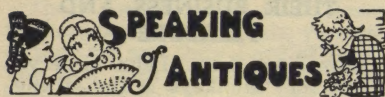
THEIR BUSINESS AND PLEASURE

Comedian Lew Lehr deserves credit for "Monkeys is the strangest pipples", and our firm opinion remains that Doll Collectors are the most interesting, the grandest!

Currently this sentiment bubbles up on account of clippings just in concerning a couple of our brilliant young career girl collectors. Betty Seidel, who goes all out for Pennsylvania Dutch in her Cherryville shop, is a successful designer and business woman, a darling girl and a discriminating doll collector. Because she knew we'd love it, Miss Betty sent in a big newspaper spread, this time about the lavish output of her "portrait" Easter eggs. She admitted too that there was an ambitious project a'brewing for making a replica Pennsylvania Dutch egg tree. That is an old Eastertime custom, with the fragile, elaborately decorated eggs, stored away and added to, from year to year.

June M. Gavin, now librarian for her company, is written up in their current "Talk of the Century." It summarizes the varied talents and trainings of Miss Gavin, activities which all add up to making her so alert and capable to head the services offered by Century Federal's Home Planning Center and library. Our quote paragraph of the story is:—

"While June was still a small child, her mother began a doll collection for her. When June was old enough to carry it on as a hobby, she began adding to the collection. She now has a priceless collection of over 400 dolls from all over the world. It includes foreign dolls, character, antique and modern dolls.



Customers who specify "I like my antiques in all original condition" may bespeak the connoisseurs ideal, but who is to say whether a doll's body is the same age as her head? China heads alone, came from the old country by ship loads! Bisques and papier-mache or other composition heads were items of import in great quantity also. There were commercial bodies, many of which specifically complemented certain heads. Examples include the Greiner bodies with brown leather fore arms and made on leather shoes over cambric stockings, and the Dottier corset body made up with glazed china limbs and those heads marked "Dec. 8, 1880". Many bodies as well as their accompanying heads were manufacturer marked, as "Jumeau", "Royal Kestner", "Florodora", "Parsons Jackson", etc.

Back to those "ship loads" of heads only—of course the little girl who wanted a doll family, had small use for such, so auntie, big sister, mamma or grandmother was commandeered to produce be-fittings limbs and torso. The vast variety of these, their proportions, coverings and stuffings would make a little volume, full of laughs, but of efforts too, that merit our respect.

Heads, being breakable, were mourned in passing, and many a store replacement was sewed or glued onto such bodies. So maybe the old darling is not "pristine", but still personable. Let her beware about casting first stones

because her own china head could well be No. 2 or 3, on the old cuddly torso.

And now, down to cases:—Blonde, 1880 marked china head, 6 inches high, 5 across the shoulders, perfect, with pale gray eyes under brown brows and with round, rosy cheeks. Complete doll, 23 inches tall; old cupped china hands, new body with striped stockings and white leather shoes made on. Nicely dressed; No. A671, \$35.00.

High amongst china aristocrats are the glazed, ball heads or "Biedermeier" dolls with wigs. We have a large size ball head china with a wig whose body stretches out to almost 27 inches in height! The head itself is perhaps the largest one made, being a good six inches from the base of the shoulders to the crown. No chips or cracks, but a little "mole" on the forehead about as big as a pin-head—you know, an original flaw in the china. The painting is always pretty on these dolls, with highlights in the eyes, circles painted in the nostrils, etc. This one has a brown, human hair wig and very old original body that dates in the 1850's. This doll and clothing too, definitely belong in a museum. The pantalettes which hang below her paisley trimmed brown mohair dress, are trimmed with hand-made ric-rac, used as insertion and as an edging. Shoes are old red Morocco laced boots with eight eyelets each side. Leather arms in fair condition; she is No. AB87, priced \$85.00.

Same type, much smaller, but costing more is a perfect little jewel of a Biedermeier, only 11½ inches tall. She is such high glaze, so daintily painted with her blonde

wig originally styled into a coronet braid of six strands that continue low like the waterfall hair line in back. Slender parian arms and old parian legs most beautifully decorated with enamel and gilt. Every thing about this little treasure is over a hundred years old, except a net and lace pinafore that we added to shield the breaks in her bright blue china silk frock. No. AH111, \$100.00.

There is a rare "Mary Todd" china with fine modeling, including her sapphire blue bead necklace, all modeled in the china. Every other head in this necklace is white and they are held together with a fine red line; lovely and different. She is 21½ inches tall, with blue eyes that match the blue of her necklace; nostrils have little red circles and the eyes are highlighted with white. One shoulder has been broken, but well mended, and one old china leg has also been re-glued. She is beautifully gowned in antique navy blue silk finely striped with pink. Bodice is done in ivory lace ruffles at her elbows. This unusual china doll dates around 1855; No. A308, \$85.00.

Two antique chinas to dress, and then we'll go into other types. "Polly Prim's" head is five inches up from the base of her deep shoulders to the flattish top of her very pretty little girl type head. There is a black dip like a tiny widow's peak where the division of her center part ends, no white line, deep scallops at temples, then almost straight down over the ears to softly overlapping vertical curls around her head. Eyes deep sapphire blue; six holes for sewing on. Old body with leather made-on shoes; new china arms with slender, cupped

hands. Nineteen inches tall, circa 1855; No. A393, \$40.00. Polly does have on underwear, drawers and two petticoats.

The other undressed china has had a broken head, but is priced accordingly. She is a very early china, 21 inches tall, with fine, deep shoulders and six holes for sewing on; has a broad old-fashioned face with features quite near the center, but finely painted. Little open ovals in the nostrils instead of just dots and also red dots in the corners of the eyes. This head would date 1850 or earlier. It has been broken across the top, down into the forehead, but only a little ways; a clean mend with no chips missing; a wedding veil or bonnet would cover this mend. Perhaps original old arms, crockery type; one hand broken. Dressed in nothing but a pair of white lisle stockings with pink tops and those not exact mates! As is, No. A382, price, \$17.00.

Bisque, akin to china, is a favored material by many who demand that their dolls be "pretty", so here's for a beauty! Pale pink ball head, with closed lips, blown glass eyes of gray blue, head side turned on her plumply rounded shoulders. Original blonde wig in fair condition; head perfect, one thumb broken on right hand. Chubby, kid body with small "Jumeau" type waist. Precious old costume from bonnet to slippers—basque and trailing skirt are of creamy pink print taffeta, made long, long ago, trimmed with tiny black fringe and black pleated flounce. She is lovely, No. A357, 15 inches tall, French bisque of the late 1860's—\$55.00.

Little "Sissy Pet" got dubbed

that because of the lone marking S. P. on the back of her bisque swivel head. Pierced ears with coral bead earbobs; brown, blown glass eyes, open mouth, original blonde wig, jointed body, all perfect. Becomingly dressed in peach tint wool challis with a binding of the same around her chip straw poke Bonnet. Twelve inches tall, No. A395, \$16.50.

Bisque Babies? — Twenty-one inch little girl with big, gray, sleeping eyes, is a choice one. Short, curly wig, parted lips with pretty teeth above and pinky tongue below, modeled in the bisque. There are three dimples and definitely double chin. Only marking, 11. Jointed composition body, all perfect, sweetly dressed and right at life size. No. A386, \$25.00.

From largest to smallest infant, only 6½ inches, with adorable "Heubach" bisque head; dark eyes, closed mouth and jointed. Prettily dressed with shell pink zephyr sacque, bonnet and bootees. A377, \$9.50.

We think the third tot is a "Baby Bump", about 1910. His head is the Heubach type bisque with deeply modeled eyes, and well shaped ears. This one has a jointed body of—looks like pressed paper, enameled, which is completely clad in glued on white fur. Nine inches tall, odd little No. A184, is \$15.00.

Bonnet bisques? Yes, we have in a ten inch pretty and perfect "Cabochon Turban" with good old white bisque arms and legs. She's a good one with head slightly turned and lifted from her fancy shoulder yoke. Dressed in pink silk crepe with ivory lace basque. No. A367, \$27.50.

Twelve inch "Nancy Lee" is another antique bonnet head, origin-

ally fine with a gift bow under her pink bonnet strings. Her hood is melon shaped in back with high peaked flounce of blue embroidery (bisque) around the head. Body and costuming perfect, but there is a mended section in the bonnet ruffle. No. A340, \$18.00.

Both of these are pretty featured blondes, of smooth texture.

There are many kinds of bisque. Nineteen inch tall "Jeannie with th' light brown hair", could well be tagged as an early parian. White, smooth, crisply modeled, she appears well preserved for her ninety odd years. Slender, cupped hands, orange button boots exactly match in texture, so are doubtless original. One wrist, one leg and the shoulders have neatly glued mends. Hair style is "high brow" with fifteen evenly swirled vertical curls. Jeannie is a serenely convincing white bisque—she someway has character. No. A4, \$45.00.

Smaller, younger but of smooth white bisque is a 12½ inch blonde "low brow", with fancy yoke, double shirred all around braid trimmed and even with a wee gilt brooch. Stone bisque arms and legs with ribbed stockings are not as smooth texture as the head, but the sort that came with these 1880 heads. Silk costume is becomingly styled, but beginning to split. No. A281, \$12.50.

And now an all bisque chubby girl doll with hidden sockets to move arms and legs. Tumbled blonde curls with bangs almost to her eyebrows; painted blue eyes with matching azure socks and bow trimmed pumps with heels and straps. Legs are one tint pinker than body, but seemingly original. Seven and a half inches tall, no chips or cracks, No. A398, \$9.00.

DOLL TALK

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for two years.

Address:

KIMPORT DOLLS
Independence, Mo.

FROM ADVERSITY

In newspaper parlance a four column-twelve is quite sizeable space. This generous amount was in a Sunday edition of the Kalamazoo Gazette entitled, "Interesting Lives in Miniature". The story was about our good customer-friend, Mrs. Arthur Grinage, and her family of nearly 200 dolls that date from 1850 to 1927.

The picture was home posed; bright eyed, smiling Mrs. G. holding "teacher's pet" or to be exact, pretty French "Louise" Jumeau. This favorite was the gift of her husband who must have heard enthusiastic comment on this prize beauty for sale.

You see, this collection story really starts with one of fate's wallops. One bright spring day, about eight years ago, the Grinage home was in it's annual throes of house cleaning. In an old-fashioned orgy of this thorough business, the woman of the house is obliged to do a terrific lot of work, no matter how much help stands around—right? Suddenly and violently, an old hip injury flared up; it was bed and suffering for several long months, then the slow process of getting on her feet and also of acquiring new interests.

The sweet and thoughtful entrance of "Louise" added to one small keepsake left from childhood started the cure and the collection. One notation on the Grinage file at Kimport is "likes them with personality, and stories, if available."

Aside from accumulating the splendid and widely varied collection, sewing clothes for others' dolls and making bodies too, has grown to quite a business. Boy dolls appeal especially, history and information on ceramics, fashions, doll types and materials. Like the travelogue man of the movies may we quote in closing an intimate bit from this busy, brave woman. "Like a healing hand laid on my brow

I'm happy to say 'I'm walking now'
With returning health my interest grows

Where it will stop, no one knows."

MY ODD DOLLS

My favorite hobby, I must confess
Comprises a hundred dolls or less.
All together a motley array—
Whenever I get them out on display.

Some are of cloth and some are of wood

Several paper ones look quite good.
Plastic and china, iv'ry as well
Wire and fleas, all kinds of shell—
Tobacco and seeds and even bright yarn,

Nuts, cones and needles, silk from Japan,

All shades and sizes, pretty or plain,

Some downright homely, some of great fame—

But shapely and perfect or seemingly flat

I love them immensely and—that is that!

—Mrs. Ethel Alexander, Maryland.

SOLID AS A ROCK

California politics crowd in the news almost as much as California climate, but it remained for Irene Nielsen to tie dolls onto these new kites. When their Lynwood Women's Club luncheon went into action on election day, the committee came forth with a table decoration of antique dolls. Each old-timer wore the original dress of her heyday, but with superimposed ribbons exalting womanhood to such wording as "Amelia Bloomer," "Susan B. Anthony," "Elizabeth Cady Stanton" and "Carrie Chapman Catt." There were red, white and blue flower arrangements and tricolor edged song sheets upon which were printed all five verses of hit song from "Bloomer Girl"—remember?



"Our brains against his muscle
Our tea against his rum!
Look behind the bustle
For the shape of things to come!"

Irene says their bisque, china and papier-mache exponents of fearless femininity received such acclaim that the whole setup was requested for "Daughters of the Colonists."

CAN'T SPEND THESE

Catherine Demaree sent us a clipping and picture of Tax Token Dolls, "Mr. and Mrs. Utah", made of \$34.52 worth of that State's money mills. They were sturdily and ingeniously constructed, reminiscent of those fascinating old Balinese coin dolls which Kimport used to secure once in a while. The antique coins used on those Oriental creations were Chinese, worn smooth brass ones with a square hole in each one.

IT'S A DATE—

Machine stitching helps to date doll clothes. Elias Howe patented his hand sewing machine in 1846. Isaac Singer first marketed a treadle model, patent of 1851.

JOLLY GOOD JUDGEMENT

Mrs. Earle Hester wrote recently of the multiple good fortune that had come her way via a government employee girl friend. This discriminating lady not only has quit roving, to get married, but seems also to have had the good taste to select real collection dolls. From Greece an Evzone and an Orthodox priest, a blonde Lombardy girl, a properly costumed man from Crete with a mustache and a dagger, and a typical old Basque fisherman.

Mrs. Hester selected one doll from Cecile and one by Carolyn John from us, so we'll opine that her traveling friend was not the only one with excellent taste.

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

"What a fascinating hobby this has turned out to be! Last week I picked up a very old pine cradle into which my dolls are going. It is being done over now. Whoever had it, had painted it a barn red!"
—Mrs. A. E. Hoyt, New York.

"The Hopi Kachina doll is something I have wanted for a long time. As he gazes benignly down from the top of my shadow-box, he somehow seems to know as much about the present world affairs as the rest of us do!"—Maxine Sickels, Iowa.

"The rice paste doll from China intrigues me no end—our business is Rice. My husband is a rice milling executive, and we thought we knew everything about all rice products, but here you come along with a doll to educate us a step farther!"—Mrs. F. A. Heimann, Texas.

"Thanks so much, for the little surprise package Ecuadorians, and now again, I'm dropping odds 'n ends into a doll box for Kimport. What a shame I didn't know earlier that you wanted such material. A bushel of really old but nice silk pieces went for rags when my aunt's home was dismantled."
—Josephine Roberts, Pennsylvania

"Even though it's summer, I want to add Lady Contralto to my Carolers group. I have had the four Carolers ever since they were first offered and have they been around since then!! —church supper table decorations, teas, public library and my own mantle at home."—Katharine McIntire,, Massachusetts.

"The Doll Fair opened last Sunday at 1 P. M. There were over fifteen hundred visitors between that time and 5 P. M. There are some very nice dolls on exhibit, and in another year, we hope to make it, bigger and better."—Mrs. Raymond Clark, Tenn.

"French classes of University High School are giving a festival with the theme of dances from Savoy. When I got my Doll Talk and saw Mademoiselle Savoy, I knew it would be perfect both for helping us design our costumes and advertising the festival. She will also be a valuable addition to my collection, because I am trying to get a doll from every province in France."—Marta Hesthal, Ohio.

"Linda, our eight year old, won three prizes in the recent school Doll Show. Her boy and girl from Germany took first in the "pair" class; she won second in the "smallest" class and her outstanding collection of foreign dolls placed second in the "collection" class. She, without saying, was very proud of herself. They were only allowed to enter three classes and Linda was the only girl out of some 300 entries that won three awards."—Mrs. John Maurus, Cal.

"I've made several dolls, using an eggshell head; mold features on with water putty, then paint. I just finished an 'old maid' school-ma'm of the early 1900's; puffed hair on top of her head, white long-sleeved shirtwaist, brown wool gored skirt, cape and felt sailor. When my teen-age son examined the 'undies' he said, 'Gosh mom! Did they really dress like that?'"—Etheln Tritch, Ind.

DON'T MISS THE THRILL KIMPORT'S DOLL OF THE MONTH PLAN

Foreign imports, historical portraits, book folk, state types, odd materials, Indian representatives . . . let us know the group you'd like to build into your collection! Satisfaction is guaranteed and you will be amazed how quickly those blank sections will fill in, under the Doll of the Month Plan.

"I am thrilled with my new portraits, George Washington and Mary Todd, and will look forward eagerly each month to a new surprise."—Mary Lippincott

"Enclosed is my check for \$5.00, together with the questionnaire for enrollment in the Doll of the Month Club. This sounds like fun and I'm sure I will derive much pleasure from the dolls?"—Mrs. A. J. Goodman

"Please send me the questionnaire blank for the Doll of the Month Plan. Since I've been away at college it's been hard to continue buying dolls. Now I'll save my dimes and be able to keep adding to my doll collection."—Rose Koryta

"Enroll me in your Doll A Month plan—I'm especially interested in obtaining the State Dolls, first."—Mrs. Marlin Andrews

Those are just a few of the splendid responses received since this special customer shopping service was offered in the January-February Doll Talk. Now is the time to write for full plans and a questionnaire blank. You decide what type of doll you want each month and the price range. Kimport will do the rest . . . select especially attractive dolls and send them about the 15th of each month. Remember, after you have purchased the 12th doll, a lucky 13 doll of the same type and price range will be your free dividend.

How about this group of twelve:—

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Chinese Confucius | \$5.00 |
| 2. New Brunswick Gramp or Granny..... | 3.95 |
| 3. Morocco Water Peddler, Spec..... | 3.95 |
| 4. British Guiana Woman or Man..... | 3.95 |
| 5. Egyptian, in ancient garb..... | 6.50 |
| 6. Dutch Boy or Girl..... | 3.90 Pr. |
| 7. African Pigmy | 4.50 |
| 8. Aloma of Tahiti..... | 4.50 |
| 9. Ceylon Kandyon Chieftain or Lady..... | 7.50 |
| 10. Norwegian Girl or Boy..... | 7.50 |
| 11. Portugal Boy & Girl..... | 5.00 Pr. |
| 12. Guatemala Weaver | 2.50 |
| 13. Lucky 13—A Five Dollar Value..... | FREE |

This outstanding group totals \$59.70 averaging only \$5.00 a month. Come on, join in the fun! This is just one possible combination. We can make up scores more.



KIMPORT DOLLS

Independence, Missouri